

[19 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Rehabilitation of workers

3779. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any programme for the rehabilitation of those 80 lakh persons who have lost their jobs due to closing down of Small Scale Industrial Units; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Data on closed units are not maintained centrally. Reserve Bank of India which compiles data on sickness in small scale industries (SSI) does not maintain data on closed small scale industries and their workers. The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter alia*, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, with a view to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government has announced a Comprehensive Policy Package which consists of *inter alia* enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.